

MULTIPLE LUMEN ACCESS DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A multiple lumen access device for use in providing a single entry port into the human body for selectively introducing medical implements therethrough and for providing simultaneous auxiliary access into the body. The multiple lumen access device includes a multi-lumen sheath which may have an outer tube and structure defining a device lumen located therein. The inner structure may be an inner wall or inner tube. The outer tube and inner structure are located so as to define at least one auxiliary lumen. Some embodiments include flexible inner walls which can be flexed between relaxed and expanded/contracted positions wherein the relative cross-sectional areas of the device lumen and auxiliary lumens are varied. The access device further includes a valve which provides sealing of the device lumen. The valve may be provided in a lumen junction housing or separate from the housing either permanently or removably connected with the device lumen. Alternatively, a multi-lumen sheath may be passed through a valve leading to a conventional introducer. The valve may also be molded separately as a rigid insert and retained in a cavity formed in a flexible junction housing. In other embodiments, the multiple lumen access device is formed by introduction of the elongated implement coaxially within a tubular single lumen sheath.

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